HAER No. KS-1

Half-Mound Bridge Federal Aid Secondary Route 1325 Valley Falls Vicinity Jefferson County Kansas

HAER KANS, 44-VAFA.V, 1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record National Park Sercice Department of the Interior Washington D.C. 20043

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Half Mound Bridge

HAER KS-1

Location:

Spanning the Delaware River on FAS 1325, 4.0 miles north and 0.5 mile west of Valley Falls, Kansas

UTM: 4364620 N 284140 E

Quad: Arrington

Date of Construction

Alterations:

The bridge was reconstructed at Half Mound in 1935, but was believed to have been in use in the late 1800's in Nebraska before

being moved to Kansas.

Present Owner:

Jefferson County County Courthouse Oskaloosa, Kansas

Present Use:

One-lane vehicular bridge.

Significance:

The Half Mound Bridge is a rare surviving example of a Baltimore

truss.

Historian:

Robert Alva and Gerald Priem,

July 1981

HALF MOUND BALTIMORE TRUSS BRIDGE HALF MOUND, KANSAS

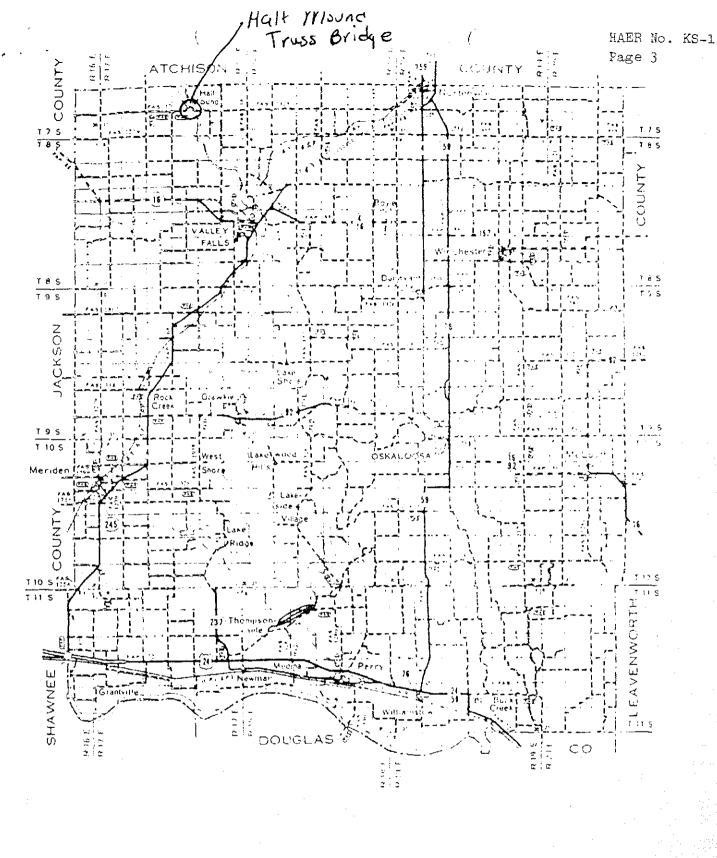
The Half Mound Bridge, located in Jefferson County, Kansas, is a classic example of a wrought iron Baltimore truss structure. Although the number of these Baltimore truss structures still standing in Kansas is not known, this particular bridge has a very unique history.

The bridge, as it stands today, has been in place since 1935 to serve one lane of vehicular traffic. It was bought by the Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County from the General Construction Company of Omaha, Nebraska for \$5,050.00. The sales contract describes the bridge as a "248 foot, clear span, pin connected, high truss" structure. The structure is 34 feet high and has a 14.7 foot wide timber plank deck.

No documentation of the bridge's existence before 1935 has been found. The structure quite probably was built in the late 1800's for railroad use, but as the weight of railroad equipment increased it was eventually discarded due to its relatively light structural members.

The historical bridge will remain in place but vehicular traffic will be prohibited. Signs will be erected at the bridge site denoting the bridge's historical significance.

In cooperation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), a request for determination of eligibility was submitted to the Keeper of the National Register on December 31, 1980. On February 3, 1981 the bridge was declared eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



LEGEND

GENERAL REPRESAY MAP JEFFERSON COUNTY KANSAS